

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 1, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 22, 2003

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2003

SENATE BILL

No. 189

Introduced by Senator Escutia

(Coauthors: Senators Kuehl, Romero, Soto, and Vasconcellos)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chan, Dymally, Hancock,
Longville, Lowenthal, and Pavley)

February 12, 2003

An act to add Section 104324.25 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to environmental health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 189, as amended, Escutia. ~~Chronic—Environmental health tracking system: chronic disease: environmental determinants.~~

Existing law states the intent of the Legislature to establish the Environmental Health Surveillance System (EHSS) for the purpose of establishing ongoing surveillance of the environmental exposures and diseases affecting Californians, with a focus on prevalence and determinants of chronic diseases. Existing law requires the Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control within the State Department of Health Services, in consultation with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, to require, on or before July 1, 2002, a working group of technical experts, as specified, to develop possible approaches to establishing the EHSS, ~~including an estimated cost for each approach, and to prepare and submit a report to the department, the office, and the appropriate legislative committees, by July 1, 2003, on the possible approaches to establishing the EHSS.~~

This bill would enact the California Health Tracking Act of 2003, and ~~would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would require the implementation of the recommendations of the working group, as prescribed~~ *require the State Department of Health Services, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of California to develop and sign a memorandum of understanding that states their intent to assess the feasibility of integrating their health surveillance systems and environmental hazards and exposures data for the purpose of establishing an environmental health tracking system, on or before July 1, 2004. This bill would also require the State Department of Health Services and the California Environmental Protection Agency to cooperate with the California Environmental Health Tracking Program to obtain specified information.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 California Health Tracking Act of 2003.
- 3 SEC. 2. ~~(a)~~ The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 4 following:
- 5 ~~(1)~~
- 6 (a) Approximately 7 out of every 10 deaths in the United States
- 7 are attributable to chronic diseases. The national cost of chronic
- 8 diseases is \$325 billion in annual health care and lost productivity
- 9 costs, and this problem needs to be appropriately addressed.
- 10 ~~(2)~~
- 11 (b) California follows this trend with an estimated \$75 billion
- 12 to \$90 billion spent annually for health care to treat people with
- 13 these chronic diseases.
- 14 ~~(3)~~
- 15 (c) The rates of many chronic diseases, including asthma, some
- 16 birth defects, and cancers, are on the rise.
- 17 ~~(4)~~
- 18 (d) We can and must do a better job of identifying the causes,
- 19 and preventing the burden, of these diseases.
- 20 ~~(5)~~
- 21 (e) There is growing scientific evidence that environmental
- 22 factors are strongly linked to the incidence of certain chronic



1 diseases, and are even more strongly linked to these diseases than
2 is genetic predisposition.

3 ~~(6)~~

4 (f) A gap in critical knowledge exists in understanding the
5 prevalence and incidence of chronic diseases and the
6 environmental factors that may relate to them.

7 ~~(7)~~

8 (g) State- and community-level incidence data on chronic
9 diseases are needed to identify trends and patterns, and to improve
10 disease prevention efforts.

11 ~~(8)~~

12 (h) The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
13 (CDC) has provided this state with funds for planning, evaluating,
14 training, tracking, and conducting a pilot demonstration to assist
15 with chronic disease and environmental exposure surveillance and
16 prevention efforts.

17 ~~(9)~~

18 (i) In the 2002 fiscal year, Congress provided the CDC with
19 funding of \$17.5 million to begin developing a nationwide
20 environmental public health tracking network, and to develop
21 capacity *for this network* in environmental health sections within
22 state and local health departments.

23 ~~(10)~~

24 (j) California received a three-year, \$2.2 million grant for the
25 University of California, and a separate three-year \$2.4 million
26 grant for the State Department of Health Services, to help establish
27 an environmental health tracking network.

28 ~~(11)~~

29 (k) A statewide health tracking network, ~~which~~ *that* integrates
30 data systems and collaborative programs and partnerships
31 involving environmental and public health professionals and
32 agencies; will help target resources more efficiently to those areas
33 most in need.

34 ~~(12)~~

35 (l) In March 2001, the CDC released the first National Report
36 on Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. This first
37 edition of the report presents 27 levels of environmental chemicals
38 measured in the United States population, including metals such
39 as lead, mercury, and uranium, cotinine, which is a marker of

1 tobacco smoke exposure, and organophosphate pesticide
2 metabolites, as well as phthalate metabolites.

3 ~~(13)–~~

4 (m) An increasing amount of research indicates that many of
5 the kinds of chemicals measured by the CDC can have an adverse
6 impact on human health.

7 ~~(14) The CDC National Center for Environmental Health~~
8 ~~expects to update the report with new data this year.~~

9 ~~(15)–~~

10 (n) *In January 2003, the CDC National Center for*
11 *Environmental Health issued the second National Report on*
12 *Human Exposure to Environmental Chemicals. The report*
13 *presents biomonitoring exposure data for 116 chemicals measured*
14 *in the United States population, including 89 additional*
15 *environmental chemicals, including polycyclic aromatic*
16 *hydrocarbons and various pesticides and herbicides, that were not*
17 *included in the first report.*

18 (o) Senate Bill 702 (Chapter 538 of the Statutes of 2001) makes
19 California the first state in the nation to begin planning a statewide
20 environmental health surveillance system for chronic diseases and
21 environmental exposures, in order to monitor trends in health
22 conditions, such as asthma, learning disabilities, and neurological
23 disorders such as Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, all
24 of which have suspected links to environmental exposures.

25 ~~(16) This year,~~

26 (p) *This year* the Senate Bill 702 expert working group will
27 make recommendations on how to develop an environmental
28 health surveillance system, the associated costs, and the health and
29 environmental measurements that would be used in the system.

30 ~~(17)–~~

31 (q) Currently, the state lacks critical knowledge about the
32 possible links between chronic diseases and chemicals that are
33 present in air, water, soil, dust, food, or other environmental
34 media. Without information obtained by tracking health and its
35 links to environmental factors, California will continue to fight
36 chronic disease with costly treatment, rather than with
37 cost-effective prevention.

38 ~~(b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that~~
39 ~~would require the implementation of the recommendations of the~~
40 ~~Senate Bill 702 expert working group for an environmental health~~

1 ~~surveillance system, through a public-private partnership, for the~~
2 ~~purpose of providing basic information that communities and~~
3 ~~public health professionals need in order to prevent or reduce~~
4 ~~chronic health problems linked to environmental factors.~~

5 SEC. 3. Section 104324.25 is added to the Health and Safety
6 Code, to read:

7 104324.25. (a) On or before July 1, 2004, the State
8 Department of Health Services, the California Environmental
9 Protection Agency, and the University of California shall develop
10 and sign a memorandum of understanding that states their intent
11 to assess the feasibility of integrating their health surveillance
12 systems and environmental hazards and exposures data for the
13 purpose of establishing an environmental health tracking system.

14 (b) The branches within the State Department of Health
15 Services and the boards, departments, and offices of the California
16 Environmental Protection Agency shall cooperate with the
17 California Environmental Health Tracking Programs in the
18 Division of Environmental and Occupational Disease Control of
19 the department, to obtain all the following information:

20 (1) A description of the relevant laws, regulations, and policies
21 that authorize environmental hazard and disease surveillance.

22 (2) A comprehensive description of their public health
23 surveillance and environmental hazard and exposure monitoring
24 information systems, including, but not limited to, the purpose,
25 scope, contents, and capabilities of each system.

26 (3) A description of the current sources of financial support for
27 public health surveillance, environmental hazard and exposure
28 monitoring information systems, and related funds.